

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-13 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4906
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AMEMBASSY SEOUL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 3016

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, KS, KN, CS

SUBJECT: NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION VISITS COSTA RICA

1. PRESIDENT FIGUERES CONFIRMED IN A PRESS CONFERENCE AUGUST 23 THAT A FOUR-MAN NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY THAT COUNTRY'S AMBASSADOR IN CUBA, SPENT THREE DAYS IN SAN JOSE VISITING FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN AN ATTEMPT TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR, "...INCLUDING ON THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY AGENDA THE UNIFICATION OF THE TWO KOREAS." FIGUERES REPORTEDLY SAID FACIO HAD TOLD THE NORTH KOREANS THAT COSTA RICA WOULD VOTE IN FAVOR OF A UN DEBATE ON THE UNIFICATION QUESTION.

2. IN A SEPARATE ARTICLE THE PRESS FOLLOWED UP THE PRESIDENT'S INFORMATION WITH DETAILS APPARENTLY OBTAINED FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS. THIS ARTICLE ADDED THAT ALL FOUR DIPLOMATS ARE FROM CUBA. THEIR NAMES, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, WERE: THUNG OKR, BONH SOMG, KIM KOUK, AND RI KEUN TAHANG. THEY REPORTEDLY WERE IN SAN JOSE FROM AUGUST 10 TO AUGUST 21. THE PRESS ITEM INCLUDED COMMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO WHO REPORTEDLY SAID "...THAT WHAT COSTA RICA WANTS IS A PLEBISCITE IN KOREA IN ORDER TO

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RESOLVE THE MATTER (OF THE TWO KOREAS)." AND

"...THAT WE HAVE NOT COMMITTED OURSELVES TO NORTH KOREA."

3. FACIO WAS SAID TO HAVE CONFIRMED THAT A SOUTH KOREAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY THE SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR IN MEXICO, WILL BE ARRIVING TO PRESENT ITS COUNTRY'S ARGUMENT FOR COSTA RICAN SUPPORT FOR ITS POSITION.

4. COMMENT: THE SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR AND COUNSELOR RESIDIG IN MEXICO CITY AND ACCREDITED IN SAN JOSE ARRIVED AUGUST 23. THEY HAVE REQUESTED AND HAVE BEEN GIVEN AN APPOINTMENT WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS ON AUGUST 24 TO DISCUSS, AT THEIR REQUEST, THE NORTH KOREAN TEAM'S ACTIVITIES HERE AND COSTA RICAN DOMESTIC POLITICS.

5. AS REPORTED SAN JOSE 2975, FOREIGN MINISTER FACIO TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT HE HAD INSTRUCTED COSTA RICA'S UN REPRESENTATIVE TO SUPPORT US POSITION ON THE KOREAN ITEM IN UNGA. FACIO REPEATED THAT TO THE AMBASSADOR AGAIN TODAY.
VAKY

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